

Message Text

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SUBJECT: VISIT OF ROMANIAN PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU

BEGIN SUMMARY: PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU MADE AN UNOFFICIAL, LARGELY ATMOSPHERIC, TWO-HOUR VISIT TO VENEZUELA ON JUNE 7 ENROUTE TO MEXICO AND BRAZIL. CEAUSESCU AND VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ AGREED TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THEIR TWO COUNTRIES, AND PEREZ STATED THAT ROMANIA WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE OPERATION OF THE NATIONALIZED PETROLEUM INDUSTRY IN VENEZUELA. END SUMMARY.

1. CEAUSESCU'S BRIEF STOPOVER IN VENEZUELA CONSISTED PRINCIPALLY OF A LUNCHEON MEETING AT THE AIRPORT WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ. CEAUSESCU WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE ELENA AND BY GHEORGHE OPREA, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER; DUMITRU POPESCU, CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL FOR SOCIALIST CULTURE AND EDUCATION; GEORGE MACOVESCU, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS; NICOLAI IONESCU, SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN COMMERCE AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION; ADVISORS NICOLAI DOICARU AND VASILE PUNGAN; AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA PETRACHE DANILA; AND OTHER SELECTED OFFICIALS.

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2. THE TWO PRESIDENTS AGREED THAT THE VENEZUELAN-ROMANIAN

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MIXED COMMISSION WOULD MEET IN AUGUST TO BUILD UPON EXISTING COOPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF ENERGY AND AGRICULTURE AND TO DEVELOP NEW AREAS OF COOPERATION IN THE PETROLEUM, METALLURGICAL AND PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES. IN A JOINT DECLARATION, THE PRESIDENTS UNDERLINED THE NECESSITY FOR "ESTABLISHING A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER BASED UPON JUST AND EQUITABLE RELATIONS BETWEEN SOVEREIGN STATES." PRESIDENT PEREZ REMARKED TO THE PRESS THAT ROMANIA WOULD COLLABORATE IN THE OPERATION OF THE VENEZUELAN PETROLEUM INDUSTRY FOLLOWING NATIONALIZATION BUT DECLINED TO GIVE DETAILS. IN TRYING TO IDENTIFY COMMON GROUND BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND ROMANIA, BOTH PRESIDENTS NOTED THAT THEIR COUNTRIES WERE IN SIMILAR STAGES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS SUBSCRIBE TO THE PRINCIPLE OF COOPERATION BETWEEN STATES IRRESPECTIVE OF DIFFERENCES IN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS, AND THAT THERE EXISTS A "LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL" AFFINITY BETWEEN ROMANIA AND VENEZUELA. PEREZ ACCEPTED CEAUSESCU'S INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO ROMANIA IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

COMMENT: THE SHORTNESS OF THIS VISIT, THE FACT THAT IT CONSISTED PRINCIPALLY OF A LUNCHEON MEETING, AND THE BREVITY OF THE OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE INDICATE THAT LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE GROUND WAS COVERED. THE VISIT WAS PROBABLY INTENDED TO SERVE ONLY GENERAL AND SYMBOLIC ENDS. IF NEW SUBSTANTIVE AGREEMENTS ARE IN THE MAKING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY IN THE OIL INDUSTRY, THEY SHOULD SURFACE DURING THE FORTHCOMING MEETINGS OF THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MIXED COMMISSION. CEAUSESCU MAY HAVE WISHED TO BREATHE LIFE INTO THE AGREEMENTS REACHED DURING HIS LACKLUSTRE AND TROUBLE-FILLED OFFICIAL VISIT TO VENEZUELA IN 1973 (CARACAS 7979 OF SEPTEMBER 13, 1973).

4. FROM THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT'S STANDPOINT, GOOD RELATIONS WITH CEAUSESCU ARE A USEFUL ASSET IN PEREZ'S ENERGETIC ACTIVITIES IN THIRD WORLD DIPLOMACY AND IDENTIFICATION WITH THE INTERESTS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT PEREZ ACCEPTED CEAUSESCU'S INVITATION TO VISIT ROMANIA, WHILE FORMER PRESIDENT CALDERA ACCEPTED A SIMILAR INVITATION PROFFERED BY CEAUSESCU DURING HIS 1973 VISIT ONLY IF "CIRCUMSTANCES PERMITTED." THE JUNE 7 VISIT TO ROMANIA BY VENEZUELAN ARMY CHIEF, MAJOR GENERAL MANUEL BERECIARTU PARTIDAS, IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE GOV'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTEREST IN MAINTAINING GOOD RELATIONS WITH ROMANIA. END COMMENT.
SHLAUDEMAM

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